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Immediate Release

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Environment Department Awards \$475,000 in Tire Recycling Grants to Six New Mexico Communities

(Santa Fe, NM) -- The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) recently awarded six tire recycling grants, totaling \$475,947, to communities throughout the state. These monies will help abate scrap tires dumps and support tire recycling facility programs.

"Illegally discarded tires are a problem that needs to be addressed," said NMED Secretary Ron Curry. "These tires are a potential fire hazard and can provide a home for disease-bearing vectors, including mosquitoes carrying the West Nile Virus. These grants will help address this problem and provide solutions for New Mexico communities."

The tire recycling grant program is funded through a vehicle registration fee and was created by the State Legislature to address problems created by the disposal of tires at legal and illegal sites. Grant recipients are:

County of Luna – \$165,000

Funds will be used for the abatement of seven illegal tire dumps and purchase of equipment to establish a permanent tire recycling facility.

Estancia Valley Solid Waste Authority – \$107,450

Funds will be used for the abatement of seven illegal tire dumps and the purchase of equipment to enhance an active tire-recycling program. Authority members include Torrance County, the City of Moriarty, Town of Estancia, Town of Mountainair, and the Village of Encino.

Sangre de Cristo Solid Waste Authority – \$77,500

Funds will be used for equipment purchases to establish a permanent tire recycling facility. Authority members include the City of Las Vegas, Mora County, San Miguel County, the Village of Pecos, and the Village of Wagon Mound.

Southwest Solid Waste Authority – \$61,497

Funds will be used for the abatement of two illegal tire dumps and to purchase a new tire baler to enhance an active tire-recycling program. Authority members include Grant County, Silver City, Santa Clara, Hurley, Bayard, Hidalgo County and Lordsburg.

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Otero County – \$60,000

Funds will be used to refurbish a tire baler and purchase equipment to enhance an active tire-recycling program.

Village of Tularosa – \$4,500

Funds will be used to load and transport a tire pile from the village water treatment facility to the Otero County Transfer Station.

In making the grants the highest priority is given to the clean up of scrap tire dumps. Funds are also available for design, transportation, and construction of projects that utilize large quantities of loose or baled scrap tires; the purchase of recycled tire products such as tire bales; and the purchase of equipment and supplies to initiate or enhance community tire recycling programs.

Cities, counties and cooperative associations are encouraged to apply for NMED tire recycling grants. Applications are available from NMED's Solid Waste Bureau grant coordinator, Toni J. Duggan, at (505) 827-0559.

For further information contact Jon Goldstein, Communications Director, NMED at (505) 827-0314.

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